

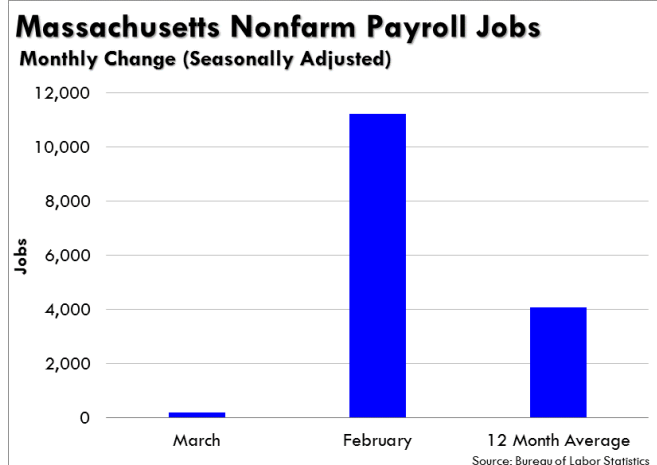
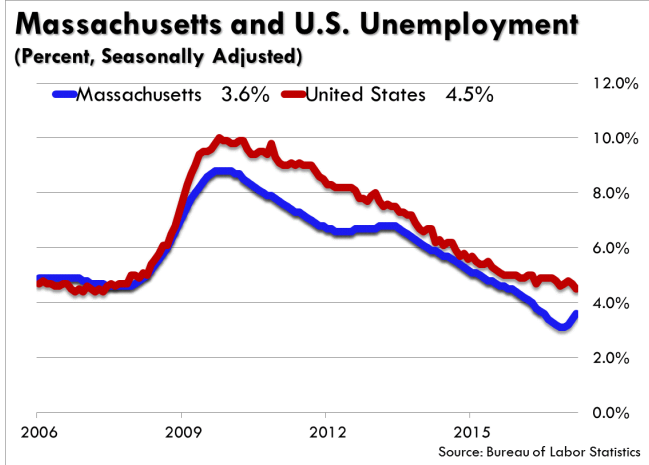


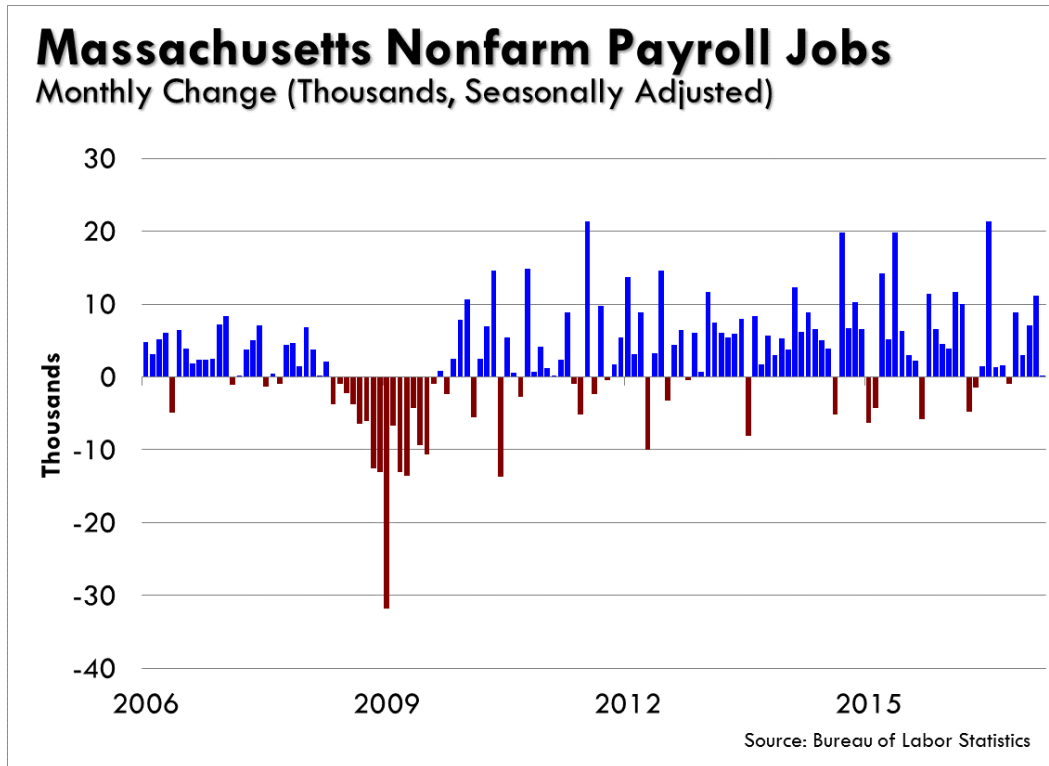
Massachusetts Employment Report Joint Economic Committee Representative Pat Tiberi, Chairman

April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Massachusetts added 200 jobs and the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Massachusetts added 49,000 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point from 4.1 percent.
- **In March, Massachusetts's private sector lost 700 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 46,000 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Massachusettsans rose by 7,865 in March**, and over the past year 89,698 Massachusettsans found jobs.
- Massachusetts's **labor force participation rate increased to 65.9 percent** from 65.3 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.9 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Massachusetts Payroll Employment

Massachusetts added 200 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Massachusetts added 11,200 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 49,000, or 1.38 percent. Massachusetts nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

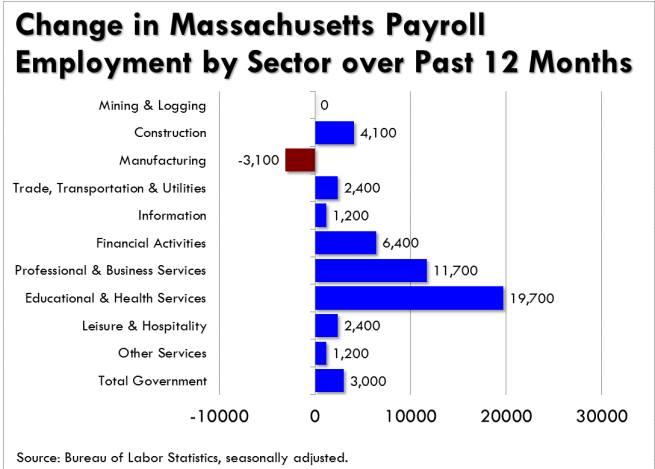
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Massachusetts ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Massachusetts's private-sector lost 700 jobs, or 0.02 percent. The private-sector in Massachusetts added 12,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 46,000, or 1.48 percent. Massachusetts private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Massachusetts ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Financial Activities (+2,500) and Total Government (+900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,300) and Educational & Health Services (-1,800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+19,700) and Professional & Business Services (+11,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-3,100) and Mining & Logging (unchanged).



Massachusetts Labor Force Statistics

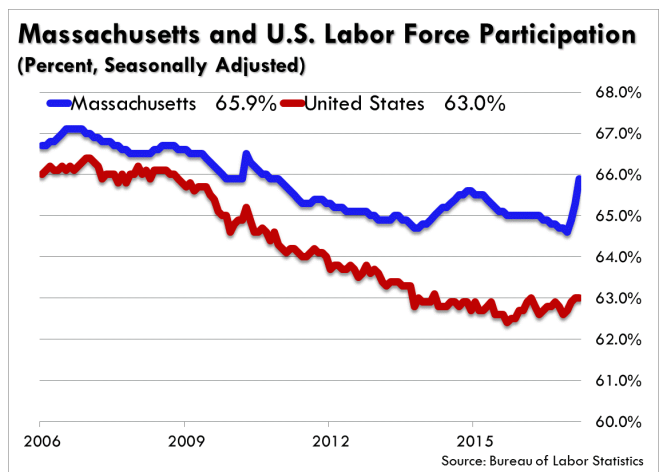
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts rose to 65.9 percent in March from 65.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 16 have a higher labor force participation rate than Massachusetts. The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was 66.8 percent in June 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.6 percent in December 2016. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Massachusetts civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 63.6 percent in March from 63.1 percent the prior



month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Massachusetts. The employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts is 1.2 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts was 63.7 percent in June 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.1 percent in January 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 57.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

